

of those who earn less than a million dollars a year; the administration's failure to retain America's moral leadership in the world and our moral compassion at home.

The Vice President used the other "F" word on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It showed a blatant disregard for a distinguished Senator. It showed a blatant disrespect of the American institution. It showed a blatant disrespect for being an American when dissent keeps the strong free. The "F" word applies to the administration. Failure in every way.

ELECTION YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, you know, we are certainly in the campaign season of an election year; and I think everybody, Mr. Speaker, needs to be on guard for the talent to spin. And I am reminded of a cartoon that was in our paper recently. And there were four figures, and the first figure said, "Gas prices are going up." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to give his friends in the oil industry more income and more money." And the next figure said, "Well, look, gas prices are coming down." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to buy our votes."

So I just challenge, Mr. Speaker, everybody in America to brace themselves probably for the most television ads they are going to see ever in this election. And you know what is encouraging is people in this country have a lot of what I call common sense that sort of comes from the gut. So I suggest to everybody, size up the candidates. Do what is right for our future.

You know, some people down here suggest that the way to have a balanced budget is to increase taxes. Some people suggest the way to balance the budget is to reduce spending. Whatever it is, I think we need to be very cognizant of what we are doing to future generations with overspending.

This year, even with the job growth and the expanded economy that is going to result in an estimated \$100 billion less overspending, less deficit spending than was earlier predicted, we are still leaving a huge mortgage to our children and our grandchildren. I want to talk about just two issues in that regard as we face the next several weeks of deciding how much we are going to spend in the appropriation bills, in the overspending and what it does to our kids, right now.

And interest rates of course just went up a quarter of a percent last week. It looks like before the end of the year they are going to go up again a little bit. Fourteen percent of total Federal spending now goes towards servicing the debt. So here is 14 percent of the \$2.3 trillion that is being spent

this year being spent to pay interest on what we are borrowing to accommodate the overzealousness of this body, the Senate, and the White House for the last 25 years to spend more and more money, trying to solve more and more problems.

That 14 percent of the total spending represents approximately \$300 billion a year; and if you realize that interest rates are going up and at the same time we are increasing the deficit, that means increasing the debt, that means increasing the interest that we are going to have to pay on that debt, it just leaves our kids with a huge responsibility, to the extent that their standard of living is going to be less than ours if we continue to do what we have been doing, and that is overspending.

And I suggest increasing taxes is not the right way to accommodate that overspending. Right now businesses are charged 18 percent more than the industrial countries that we compete with.

They pay 18 percent more in taxes in this country than other countries. So to simply say we are going to increase the taxes and put our businesses at a greater competitive disadvantage means that there is a greater likelihood that other countries are going to undersell us, that are going to produce those products. It means that companies in this country, to survive, are going to do more of their business overseas. Let us not solve our problems by increasing taxes.

Let me finish, Mr. Speaker, by talking about overpromising. It is easy for a politician to go back home to their districts or their States and say, well, you have some problems; I am going to come back in Congress, and we are going to push to solve that problem simply by increasing taxes to accommodate you, or maybe not even increasing taxes; maybe just making propositions.

The economists use the words "unfunded liabilities" to describe how much we have promised over and above the revenues coming in to pay for those promises. I would ask people to guess how much unfunded liabilities are now projected by the Medicare and Social Security actuaries. The answer is \$73.5 trillion. That means that we would have to have \$73.5 trillion into a savings account, earning as much interest to accommodate inflation, to pay for what is not coming in in the payroll tax in future years. It is not fair. It is moving away from the principle of those that work hard, that try, that study and invest end up better off than those that do not.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that it is important in this election year that the people of America size up their candidates.

H.R. 867, HASAN PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives did a good deed. The House passed a bill that I had introduced nearly 2 years ago known as the Private Relief bill, which will allow Duri Hasan and her four daughters who live in Milltown, New Jersey, to fulfill the dream that brought them to America.

Nearly 3 years after the murder of their husband and father in a post-9/11 hate crime, Duri, Asna, Anum, Nida and Iqra received welcome and overdue news from the House of Representatives. Today, this body has helped them take a huge step toward putting the tragedy of September 15, 2001, behind them and put them back on track for American citizenship. I hope the Senate will move quickly on this.

I am very thankful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this bill and for the scores of citizens, activists, and religious leaders around the country who have supported this.

For any of my colleagues who are unfamiliar with the Hasan family, let me recall their tragic and heroic story. I think my colleagues will agree it is a true American epic filled with hopes and dreams, tragedy and hardship, and, thankfully, today, compassion in the form of a chance.

Waqar Hasan came to the United States in 1993 from Pakistan in search of a better life for his family. A year later, he brought his wife, Durrehshahwar, or Duri we know her as, and their four daughters. The family settled in Milltown, New Jersey, where they had relatives. Waqar supported the family working in a gas station in the area. In the fall of 2001, he was in Dallas to establish a convenience store. He planned to move his family there after the business got off the ground.

However, on the night of September 15, 2001, just 4 days after the vicious 9/11 attacks, Mark Anthony Stroman walked into Waqar Hasan's convenience store in Dallas and shot the 46-year-old father to death. When asked by police why he shot Waqar, Stroman expressed no remorse: "I did it to retaliate on local Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them," he said. "I did what every American wanted to do, but didn't." Stroman is now on death row.

Mr. Hasan was very much a victim of the attacks of 9/11, and his death was a hate crime if ever there was one.

Before his death, Waqar had taken steps for him and his family to become American citizens. He was in the United States on an immigrant visa and was going through the paperwork towards citizenship. When he was brutally killed, his family's American future was placed in jeopardy. Their visas and green card applications were both dependent upon his visa. When he died, their hopes of American citizenship died with him. The Hasan family had lost their husband, father, and